

StudentChapter NEWS

News for and about future mechanical contractors

2007 Student Chapter Summit Rocks Cleveland

It's hard to say whether the **2007 Student Chapter Summit** rocked Cleveland...or the other way around. Almost 200 people descended on Cleveland, OH, in early October for the annual conference that brings together MCAA student chapter members, their faculty advisors, sponsors, and interested contractors for two days of networking, skills building, industry information and fun.

The Summit of "Firsts"

The 2007 Summit was notable for lots of reasons, but especially

for marking several "firsts" for those involved. Brett Christiansen (Palmer-Christiansen Company, Inc.) presided over his first Summit as chairman of the Career Development Committee, and several new committee members took on roles as moderators, session leaders and judges. MCA of Cleveland, Inc. hosted the Summit, which coincided with the start-up of the association's first student chapter, the MCA of Cleveland Student Chapter at Kent State University. New student chapters from Canada—the MCA

of Hamilton's student chapter at McMasters University and the MCA of Ottawa's student chapter at the University of Ottawa—attended their first Summit. And, a particularly memorable first...a prominent city official, Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson, opened the Summit with a gracious, warm welcome to his city.

The tour was also a "first" for many of the students who attended. The Local 120/MCA of Cleveland Joint Apprenticeship Training Center opened its doors to demonstrate the various phases of training that UA apprentices go through to become full-fledged journeymen. Students watched as veteran pipefitters joined, welded, and tested various types of pipes used to convey air, water, and gas in a building. The tour also included a look at the CAD lab where trainees analyze project drawings.

Green Was the Theme

Green and sustainable construction had a prominent showing in the Summit program this year, and MCAA President Dave Kruse delivered an opening presentation that made certain the student attendees understood the importance of their role in carrying the movement into the future. "...you have the opportunity to enter the world of mechanical contracting and help us build the high

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Students gather in randomly assigned teams to work on the mini competition for fun and cash.

MCAreers

CAREER DEVELOPMENT AT MCAA

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About 200 MCAA student chapter members, faculty advisors, local affiliated association sponsors, interested contractors, and guests attended MCAA 2007 Student Chapter Summit in Cleveland, OH (October 1–2).



MCAA President Dave Kruse welcomed Summit attendees and spoke about the career opportunities available to young professionals in the mechanical construction industry.

performance green buildings of America's future. You can be the solution to many of America's most pressing problems. You can help slow climate change and reverse our dependence on foreign energy."

As an affirmation of Kruse's invitation, consultant Nick Collins of PAE Consulting Engineers, Inc. (Portland, OR) led a fascinating session that provided an overview of what's behind the green and sustainable construction movement and the technological changes that



Consulting Engineer Nick Collins led a session about how HVAC equipment is turning green.

are happening to HVAC equipment to make it cleaner and more energy-efficient. For those who missed his session, the PowerPoint is at www.mcaa.org/careers.

Collins' session was a welcome one for student attendees who are planning to participate in MCAA's **2007–2008 Student Chapter Competition**. Career Development Committee member Jim Jarvis (J.F. Ahern Co., Fond du Lac, WI) explained the project, a 58,000-square-foot addition to his company's headquarters (for a complete description of the project, see the Mechanical Careers Column in the October 2007

issue of the MCAA Reporter). The Request for Proposals challenges the students to come up with a design for the facility that achieves the highest possible LEED rating. All competition information is online at www.mcaa.org/careers. Requests for Information were due by November 2, and answers have been distributed to all chapters and posted online at the above address.

The mini competition also emitted a green hue this year. The project, a new U.S. Department of Homeland Security regional headquarters in Cleveland, OH, called for employee offices, two courtrooms, holding cells for detained persons, a sally port, a public waiting area, and a weapons/ammunition vault. An important requirement was that the design achieve not less than a LEED-NC Silver rating. Eighteen teams, each comprised of students from six or seven different chapters, organized and prepared presentations for the second day of the conference. Team 4 came in first, with each team member receiving \$100, and Team 12 took second place, with each team member receiving \$50.

Getting Back to Basics

Another session that had students' rapt attention was **General Conditions and Other Proposal Traps**. Led by Career Development Committee Chairman Ken Durr



Professor Wentz (right) uses a pause in the action to catch up with Professor Maureen Weidner of Georgia Tech.



Terra Turner, president of the MCAA Student Chapter at the University of Wisconsin – Stout, spoke about how her chapter earned the 2006 Student Chapter of the Year Award.

(Durr Mechanical Construction, Inc., New York, NY) and Professor Keith Rahn of Illinois State University, the session addressed the critical elements that make up a successful project bid, what items are typically included in General Conditions and those that are not, and why. The session was designed to help students gain a better understanding of how to plan a successful, competitive project bid. The PowerPoint is also available at www.mcaa.org/careers.

One chapter that has demonstrated its understanding of what a chapter needs to succeed is the MCAA Student Chapter at the University of Wisconsin – Stout.



Students from Iowa State University, Cal Poly at San Luis Obispo, and Ferris State University “network” at the Summit in Cleveland.



The Honorable Frank Jackson, mayor of Cleveland (center), meets MCAA leaders. From left, MCAA Board of Directors member Don Giarrantano, MCAA President-Elect Jack Wilhelmi, Career Development Committee Chairman Brett Christiansen, Board of Directors member Ken Durr, Mayor Jackson, MCAA President Dave Kruse, MCAA Executive Vice President and CEO John Gentile, and MCAA Vice President Lonnie Coleman.

Tara Turner, president of the 2006 Student Chapter of the Year, gave an excellent presentation on how her organization has grown and continues to thrive. After introducing Professor Tim Becker (faculty advisor) and fellow students in attendance, Turner explained how her chapter is organized as part of an umbrella organization, the Student Construction Association, and benefits from its fundraising, membership recruitment, social activities, field trips and special projects. The involvement of the MCAA student chapter has exposed students to the mechanical construction industry and the career opportunities it offers.

Other chapters present each took their turn to present brief reports on their accomplishments over the past year and plans for the coming year. The Canadian chapters and MCAA’s newest chapters at Kent State University and Pennsylvania State University also gave reports.

Summit Attendees Rock on at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

The highlight of the conference was an evening at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. Before attendees dined on a delicious buffet meal, Museum Director Terry Stewart gave a brief history of the world-famous facility and the roots of the uniquely American music genre. For those who wonder why Cleveland was chosen as the site of the museum, Stewart explained that 1950’s Cleveland Disc Jockey Alan Freed is credited with introducing Rock and Roll to the American public. After dinner, Summit attendees had the evening to wander through the museum’s six floors and to experience more than 50 years of Rock and Roll history.

Thanks to Our Sponsors

As with past Summits, the generous contributions of sponsors helped make possible the events and activities that make the expe-



Career Development Committee Chairman Brett Christiansen welcomes attendees to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum for an evening of great food and a walk back through music history.

rience and memory of this unique conference so special.

Three companies sponsored the evening at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame: Trane, Viega, LLC and Zurn Industries, Inc. Mike Malone of Trane, Joe Pikus of Viega, LLC, and Frank Schaetzke of Zurn Industries, Inc. each took a few minutes at the museum to welcome the students and encourage their pursuit of careers in the mechanical construction industry.

Two of the meals were covered by contributions from Mueller Industries, Inc. (buffet lunch) and Sloan Valve Company (breakfast).



Pipefitters demonstrate pipe fitting techniques during a tour of the UA Local 120/MCA of Cleveland Joint Apprenticeship Training Center.

Tracy Bell with Mueller Industries and Sloan Valve representative John August made brief presentations about their respective companies and their products. ERICO, Inc. sponsored the attendees' colorful t-shirts, and Trane supplied messenger bags/backpacks.

All of the sponsors provided excellent brochures about their companies and their products, which many of the students used in their mini competition presentations.

Special thanks to the MCA of Cleveland for sponsoring the pre-Summit dinner at the Shoreby Club on the shores of Lake Erie. Sincere thanks to MCAA Vice President Lonnie Coleman for his time, energy, and assistance with the plans and arrangements.

The site of the **2008 Student Chapter Summit** is still under consideration. We'll let you know when and where it will take place as soon as we know. ☺



Students chat before dinner at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum.



An evening at the world-famous Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum opened with a welcome and a presentation on the roots of Rock and Roll by museum director Terry Stewart.

Start Planning Now for MCAA 2008

MCAA 2008 Creating an Environment for Success will be here before you know it, so start making your plans now to attend. MCAA's annual convention will take place March 2–6, 2008, at the JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa in Palm Desert, CA.

The program is still coming together; so far, major speakers include Jim Abbott, the one-handed former Major League Baseball pitcher; Frank Abagnale, the world-famous thief who was the subject of the hit film, *Catch Me If You Can*; novelist and Newsweek columnist Anna Quindlen; ESPN and ABC News college basketball analyst Dick Vitale; and James Woolsey, former director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. Experts in business man-

agement and planning and personal health and enrichment will lead sessions to expand your knowledge and improve your life.

We've also lined up some great groups to entertain you. Dance off all those yummy calories at the *Annual Dessert Party* to the band **Stellar. Huey Lewis and the News** (*Heart of Rock and Roll, Power of Love, Jacob's Ladder, Stuck with You*) will have you dancing to the great songs that catapulted them to stardom in the 1980s.

The student program will include all your favorites. We're planning a night out on Sunday evening (it's a surprise!), the finals of the *2007–2008 Student Chapter Competition*, the *Student Chapter Exhibit*, and

the *Student Chapter Luncheon and Meeting*. On Wednesday morning (March 5), we'll present charters to new chapters and announce the 2007 Educator of the Year, Student Chapter of the Year, and the results of the Student Chapter Competition.

For more information about the MCAA 2008 convention, please visit www.mcaa.org/mcaa2008. To register your chapter delegation, please use the special registration form for students and faculty advisors which has been sent to all faculty advisors and sponsors. Help us control our costs by keeping your delegation number to no more than 10. Please contact Ann Mattheis at amattheis@mcaa.org with any questions. ☺

Check Out www.greencontractors.us for Green and Sustainable Construction Information

MCAA is going green and MCAA's new website (www.greencontractors.us) is an important step to helping our members transform their businesses for green and sustainable construction projects.

For the past few months, MCAA has taken several significant steps to embrace green and sustainable construction. Our mission, as stated by MCAA President Dave Kruse, is to help our members become the leaders in this new and excit-

ing industry movement. We've joined the U.S. Green Building Council, held the first-ever **Green Opportunities Conference** in Milwaukee, WI in late September, developed and are offering courses to help members prepare for the LEED accredited professional examinations, and joined the Clinton Climate Initiative, which is committed to helping provide major cities in the U.S. and Europe with resources to help convert buildings to meet LEED standards.

The website is a valuable resource for contractors, faculty, students and anyone else interested in how to catch the green and sustainable construction wave. This information-laden website is filled with news, green building factoids, information about LEED courses and upcoming conferences, and much, much more.

Check out our new website and join us in going, glowing and growing green! ☺

Chapter ROUND-UP

Here's all the news from MCAA chapters around the country. If you have a special event or activity you would like to share, just send the item and any photos to Ann Mattheis at amattheis@mcaa.org.

Student Consortium of Specialty Contractors at the University of Nebraska – Omaha

Submitted by Jake Kopocis

The Student Consortium of Specialty Contractors (SCSC) had a great start for its third year. Our first order of business was to elect new officers for the chapter who are the following: President, Allen Berglund; Executive Vice President, Andrew Heuerman; Vice President, Thaddaues Bode; Secretary, Jake Kopocis; and Treasurer, Rodney Bogh.

SCSC's first project of the year was to help the community by volunteering with the Steamfitters Local 464. Our members teamed up with a steamfitter and then visited elderly residents to perform routine maintenance on their furnaces. Our members also repaired a driveway recently for an elderly lady who has 12 handicapped children living with her.

Currently, we are working on the student competition. We have organized a team, developed a schedule, and will complete the submission by the deadline in mid-December. Our team hopes to make the competition finals and present our proposal at MCAA's annual convention in Palm Desert, CA.

Our biggest accomplishment of the last year is that we hosted our first Beer Tasting Fundraiser which helped us raise over \$1,000. This year, we have hosted numerous information sessions with: Kiewit Underground, Weitz, Continental Fire and Sprinkler, and Lusardi. We are also planning several others for later in the year.

MCA of Kentucky Student Chapter at Northern Kentucky University

Submitted by Jonathan Hunley

The MCA of Kentucky Student Chapter at Northern Kentucky University toured the Melink Corporation (Milford, OH) last month. The company's new headquarters is the first LEED Gold certified building in the state of Ohio. The tour not only provided us with great information about the company and the building, but it also will help us with the LEED portion of the student competition.

A delegation from our chapter also attended the Summit in Cleveland and learned new ideas that we can utilize in the competition as well.

Mechanical Specialty Contracting Student Chapter at Iowa State University

Submitted by Nicole Bell

Our chapter has been busy since school started in August. We've had three monthly meetings, special membership and fundraising events, one tour with another planned, and volunteer projects.

Several speakers have made presentations about their company and the industry to help us learn more about the business of mechanical contracting. At our August meeting, Scot Stoltenberg, safety director with the MCA of Iowa, briefed us on the benefits of membership in the MCAA and the MCA of Iowa. About 30 students attended that meeting. In September, John Conover, president of Trane of the Americas, spoke to about 60 students on lead-

ership in HVAC and green building and HVAC. Later that month, Darcy Otis of Siemens Technologies spoke to 20 students at our monthly meeting about control systems and building automation. In October, Victor Amoroso of A&J Associates attended our meeting to discuss radiant heating and geothermal systems.

Our social, fundraising and recruiting events have included the Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering Clubfest (grillout), which allowed us to advertise our club with a display and a brochure. We also held a very successful MCA of Iowa Student Chapter Golf Outing Fundraiser in September. About 60 golfers from all over Iowa attended, including 12 students. Then, we hosted an MCA of Iowa tailgate party before the ISU vs. Iowa football game.

Three students from our chapter attended the Student Chapter Summit in Cleveland.

The chapter has toured the U.S. Department of Agriculture Laboratory in Ames and we plan a field trip to and tour of the B3 Lab in Ankeny, IA.

Volunteer projects include an Adopt-a-Highway project and plans to demolish a church and the Homecoming Blitz Build.

Rocky Mountain Student Chapter of MCAA at Colorado State University

Submitted by Stefan Hatf

Our chapter was represented at the Student Chapter Summit last month in Cleveland. Club members

who attended included President Adam Grubb, Vice President Stefan Hatfield, Secretary Jeff Gilbert and Faculty Advisor Dr. Mostafa Khattab. We met students from other schools while working on a competition project. We toured the Pipefitters Local 120/MCA of Cleveland Joint Apprenticeship Training Center where we had an insightful look into the hard work and rigorous training apprentices go through, as well as the benefits of organized labor. There were very informative sessions given by industry professionals. Professional Engineer Nick Collins of PAE Consulting Engineers (Portland, OR) gave a great presentation on green HVAC equipment and Ken Durr (Durr Mechanical Construction, Inc.,

New York, NY) and Professor Keith Rahn of Illinois State University (Normal, IL) spoke on General Conditions and Other Proposal Traps.

The highlight of the Summit for most was the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. Director Terry Stewart gave a great talk on the origins of Rock and Roll before a dinner of epic proportions was served. With historic memorabilia, displays and videos from musicians throughout the decades, it was hard to fit the whole tour in the time we had.

As is tradition with the Summit, the project for the new student chapter competition was issued. The project this year is going to be an excit-

ing challenge! Our chapter's team will include Mary Torrey (captain), Adam Grubb, Kris Musgrave, Ryan Dorsey, Ryan Heberlein, and Jeff Gilbert. With new ideas from club members and past experience from former team members, the new team is optimistic about securing a win this year.

Finally, students were very supportive of the decision to appoint Dr. Khattab head of the Construction Management Department. His passion for teaching and his enthusiasm and dedication to the program are welcome qualities. Although he has many new responsibilities, Dr. Khattab is adamant about remaining involved with the MCAA student chapter. ☺

Purdue Organization Launches First MCAA Student Chapter/ACE Mentoring Project

The MCA of Indiana Student Chapter at Purdue University is first again. MCAA's first student chapter is also the first MCAA student chapter to forge an ACE Mentor relationship with a local high school. The Purdue organization is partnering with Northwest High School in Indianapolis, IN, to work with a team of 15 students who are interested in a career in the construction industry.

The team meets from 3:00 p.m.–5:15 p.m. every other Wednesday. The fall semester meetings will involve visits to the offices of architects, construction companies and engineers to help the students understand what's involved in those professions.

The first meeting took place at the Indianapolis office of BSA

Lifestructures, a firm of architects, engineers, interior designers, technology planners, project and facilities managers.

The second meeting took place October 31 at the new Indianapolis Airport, a \$1.1 billion modern terminal building built between two existing runways. Construction of the terminal began in July 2005 and is scheduled to be complete in late 2008.

The MCAA Student Chapter at Georgia Tech is also developing an ACE Mentor partnership with a high school in the Atlanta, GA, area.

The ACE Mentor Program is a national network of teams involving mostly urban high schools and local mentors who are architects,

constructors and engineers (hence, the name ACE) to educate and expose high school students to the career opportunities available in the construction industry. The program was established about 10 years ago and now supports teams in 80 cities across the U.S., involving 7,500 students and 2,500 mentors.

MCAA joined the program and its board of directors in November 2006 as a way of reaching out to high school students about the career possibilities in mechanical construction. Both organizations recognized the benefits of MCAA's student chapter network partnering with ACE Mentor to interest high school students in continuing their education and developing a career with our industry. ☺

Rocky Mountain Chapter's Khattab is Appointed Construction Management Department Head



Mostafa Khattab has been appointed to head the Construction Management Department at Colorado State University.

Score one for the good guys! Dr. Mostafa Khattab, advisor to the Rocky Mountain Chapter of MCAA, has been appointed to head the Construction Management Department at Colorado State University (CSU). He replaces Dr. Larry Gross who stepped down from that position earlier this year.

Khattab joined the department five years ago after serving on the faculty of the Construction Management Department at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. At that time, the MCAA student chapter at CSU was struggling. Khattab started recruiting members, organizing meetings and field trips, raising funds, and making plans to bring students to MCAA's 2003 convention in Palm Desert, CA. Today, the chapter is well established and participates regularly in the annual Student Chapter Summit, the MCAA convention and the Student Chapter Competition. The Rocky Mountain Chapter of MCAA won a Chapter of Excellence Grant this year.

In appreciation for his chapter development efforts, student chapter members nominated Khattab for the 2005 Educator of the Year Award, and he won. He received the award at *MCAA 2006* in Maui, HI.

Congratulations, Dr. Khattab, from all your MCAA friends and colleagues! ☺

New Student Chapters Form at Kent State, Penn State

This spring, new student chapters came together at Kent State University (Kent, OH) and Pennsylvania State University (State College, PA), the result of hard work by faculty, students, and their local association sponsors. With their addition to the MCAA student chapter network, the total number of chapters is 40.

Representatives from both chapters attended the 2007 Student Chapter Summit in Cleveland, OH. Professor Joe Karpinski, faculty advisor to the MCA of Cleveland Student Chapter at Kent State University, accompanied 14 students from that school, and Lori Eshenaur, executive director of the MCA of Central Pennsylvania (sponsor of the Penn State Chapter) brought four students from that university.

Both chapters are planning to participate in the 2007–2008 Student Chapter Competition, and both chapters are putting plans together to send delegations to **MCAA 2008** in Palm Desert, CA. Each chapter will receive its charter at the **Awards of Excellence Ceremony**, which will take place during the convention, on March 5. ☺

**Do you believe your chapter is Number 1?
Is your faculty advisor the best anywhere?**

Watch for our announcement about the 2007 Chapter of the Year and 2007 Educator of the Year Awards...*coming soon!*